

Proceeds of ESC bazaar go back to community

This year's bazaar expected to raise nearly \$20,000

By SSgt. Christopher Haug
Public affairs

More than 100 vendors will display their goods for sale at a spring bazaar this weekend at RAF Lakenheath in Hangar 6. The RAF Lakenheath Enlisted Spouses Club sponsors the bazaar.

The bazaar is open from 3:30 - 7 p.m. for military identification card holders. It's open to the public from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Sunday. Vendors will sell crafts, lace, wine, pottery, clothes, antiques, furniture, paintings and food.

Food booths and games will be outside the hangar. In addition the USAFE band performs inside the hangar this afternoon.

Seventy percent of the proceeds from the bazaar will benefit base units and local charities like the Thetford Blind Association, Brooklands Home in Bury St. Edmunds, Childhood Cancer Organization for Parents and Relatives Support, Lakenheath Village Over 60s Club and more.

Most vendors will accept sterling, dollars, sterling checks and some credit cards. Many vendors are not accepting dollar checks. The bank will be open to cash checks at the bazaar from 1 - 5 p.m. Sunday.

The enlisted spouses club began in 1957 and is made up of two sides — a philanthropic side and a business and social side.

The ESC sponsors a variety of fund-raisers throughout the year. Seventy percent of the proceeds goes to the philanthropic account and 30 percent to the business and social accounts. Fund-raisers include the thrift shop, bingo at the Liberty Club, bagging at the base exchange, a golf



Photo by SSgt. Steve Ball

Members of the RAF Lakenheath Enlisted Spouses Club bazaar committee.

tournament, bake sales and other miscellaneous events.

The bazaar is the largest fund raiser for the club. Some of the base community beneficiaries are: the high school scholarships program, educational programs at all levels, Reading is Fundamental, the Drug Abuse Resistance and Education program and Fire Prevention Week. The club also supports chapel youth groups, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Good Sam, the quarterly and annual 48th Fighter Wing award winners, American Red Cross, family support, family services and family advocacy.

Stateside, they support the Enlisted Widows Home and Fisher House.

Another program that started in the 50s is

the annual Lakenheath Over 60s Club Christmas party held at the Liberty Club. Members from The Lakenheath Village Over 60s Club come to the Liberty Club for a traditional Christmas dinner. Both the ESC members and Liberty Club staff sponsor this event. Each guest receives a care package and a hug as they leave. They also invite the same group over for a picnic during the summer.

The ESC meets the third Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Liberty Club ballroom. They meet on the second Monday if the third falls on a holiday.

Due to the bazaar, the club's next meeting is 7 p.m. April 21. Enlisted active duty, spouses and retirees are eligible to join. Call Kim Milcarek at (01638) 714871 for details.

ESC bazaar hours

The enlisted spouses club bazaar is open from 3:30 - 7 p.m. Friday for military identification card holders only. The bazaar is open to the public from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Sunday. Bank hours at the bazaar are 1 - 5 p.m. Sunday. For more information, call (01638) 532319.

ESC manages thrift shop/giveaway exchange

The enlisted spouses club manages the thrift shop and the giveaway exchange.

The thrift shop is open from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Consignments are taken from 10 a.m. - 12:45 p.m. After fog delays, the shop opens at 11 a.m. For more information, call Ext. 2987.

The giveaway exchange is open from noon - 2 p.m. Mondays and 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Wednesdays and Fridays. For more information, call Ext. 2140.

Both shops are closed today for the enlisted spouses club bazaar and March 28 for Good Friday.